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CITY UNVEILS SECOND GREEN HOUSING FACILITY CHERRY COURT PROVIDES SUPPORTIVE LIVING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Milwaukee's second green housing facility officially opened today in a ceremony led by Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Housing Authority City Chair Alderman Willie Hines Jr., U.S. Housing and Urban Development Hope VI Director Susan Wilson and WHEDA Executive Director Antonio Riley. Cherry Court, 1525 North 24th Street, is a new mid-rise apartment building with 120 one-bedroom units for seniors and persons with disabilities. This \$19 million building and six future single-family homes will replace an outdated 8-story high-rise building. Highland Gardens, a mid-rise at 1818 W. Juneau Ave, is the City's first green facility.

Cherry Court features a 20,000 square foot green roof and a number of sustainable design features that contribute to the conservation of energy and other natural resources. This green facility features low-flushing toilets in the public restrooms, bamboo flooring in the community room, recycled rubber flooring, dimmable fluorescent light fixtures, carpeting with a high level of recycled material, stained concrete floors to reduce maintenance, and light harvesters to control the use of artificial lights in stairways. The building itself is made of locally manufactured and recyclable concrete masonry and pre-cast concrete.

"We're reinventing what public housing means to the public," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "The Milwaukee Housing Authority is transforming neighborhoods and minimizing its impact on the environment. Cherry Court is a more welcoming, accessible and energy-efficient home for its residents, and it offers computer access and job training tools to the entire neighborhood."

There's more to Cherry Court than just its green design. This project represents the Housing Authority's ongoing commitment to housing people with special needs and doing so in a way that leads by example.

"Cherry Court is a place that people will be proud to call 'home' because it was designed with input from our residents, neighbors, and our service providers," said Housing Authority Board Chair and Council President Willie Hines, Jr.

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Additional Highlights of Cherry Court

Universal Design

Cherry Court is designed in consultation with the community it serves and in partnership with Independence First, an advocacy group for persons with disabilities. The building goes beyond standards set by building codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act to meet the real day-to-day needs of persons with disabilities. Features include extra-wide doorways, clearances on the sides of the toilets for side transfers, controls and electrical outlets at a height convenient to a wheelchair, low-pile carpeting, accessible fixtures and adaptable bathroom and kitchen features to meet the individual needs of residents.

On-Site Case Manager

S.E.T. Ministry, a local nonprofit health & human services organization, is the lead agency at Cherry court and the case manager for seniors and residents with disabilities. Funding for this service is through Family Care and the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. The Housing Authority, S.E.T. nurses and social workers provide the following services for residents who need and want them: needs assessment, case management, wellness and health programs, life skills training, service coordination for healthcare and personal care.

Neighborhood Network Center

Cherry Court also includes a computer center with 12 computers that can be accessed by the public. This is a place that welcomes neighborhood residents to receive computer training, job training and employment information, GED preparation, adult basic skills education, educational programming for youth, healthcare information and more. Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services is a partner with the Housing Authority and provides classes in the center.

Other Amenities

Library, TV/Movie room, large community room with kitchen that can be used for resident and neighborhood meetings, a barber and beauty salon, a greenhouse/gardening room, and a meditation room.

Another Hope VI Success

Cherry Court is a continuation of the Housing Authority's HOPE VI redevelopment projects. Each U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI grant allows Milwaukee to revitalize a public housing development into attractive, economically viable community.

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